

1884-002  
Lee Co.

Chancery Causes: Elbert Lawson vs. John Lawson

Cantrell, Fielding, Delp, Moore, Maness, Johnson, Bledsoe,  
Brotherton, Tate, Osborn, Rogers, Morgan, Hobbs

- Deed

CA - Contract Dispute

T - Property  
Migration



To the Hon. John A. Kelly Judge of the  
Circuit Court of Lee County Virginia

Your orator Elbert Lawson, a resident  
of Missouri, humbly complaining sheweth  
unto your Hon. that he formerly resided  
in the County of Lee where he was  
born and raised, that there descended  
to him from his father Russell Lawson  
deceased, a valuable lot or parcel of  
<sup>land</sup> in said County, known as lot no 7 in the  
partition of his said ancestor's land. He  
went into the possession of these lands,  
and for several years occupied them.  
After the lapse of several years he had  
reasons sufficient to himself, to suspect  
the fidelity of his wife Jeannie Lawson  
and in his grief and despair removed  
from Lee County to the State of Mo where  
he now resides. After he left he is in-  
formed his said wife sued for a divorce  
and maintenance and had a decree of your  
Honor's Court in her favor, sequestering  
said lands and setting them apart  
for her sole use and benefit, and they  
were placed in the hands of a receiver  
of this Honorable Court, where as your  
orator is advised they now rest.  
In the mean time an ungrateful and  
profligate uncle of your orator by



Some means unknown to your orator, procured a deed purporting to be a conveyance from your orator, to him the said John Lawson, for said land, this deed bears date the 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 1878, and was admitted to record in this County on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of Sept 1881 - The deed purports to have been executed in the State of Arkansas Marion County - A Copy whereof is herewith filed, marked "A" and is prayed to be considered herewith. This pretended deed purports to have been written and executed in consideration of a price paid therefor. Your orator alleges the same to be a foul and willful forgery, gotten up to cheat defraud and ruin your orator. He never signed or executed any such deed, nor did the said John Lawson ever purchase or pay anything therefor. By an inspection of said Copy it will be seen the Clerk purporting to take the acknowledgement of said deed certifies himself as County Court Clerk and attaches the seal of the Circuit Court - Your orator is advised this error or blunder in a very poor forger has rendered said acknowledgement void and of no



effect, and that by the laws of Virginia  
a foreign clerk cannot take a valid  
acknowledgement of lands in this  
state and therefore if it had been  
done as purports by him it passes  
no right from your orator. Besides, as  
a fact your orator alleges no such ac-  
knowledgement ever was made, but  
is false and fraudulent. Your orator is  
advised that said John Lawson has  
or is about making some compromise  
with his said wife Jeannie by which  
he is about to possess himself of said  
lands, and he fears will make some  
sale or transfer under his pretended  
deed prejudicial to your orator's rights.  
Indeed he is informed the said John  
Lawson has been endeavoring to make  
sale thereof. Your orator would also  
state that his said wife has confirmed his  
suspicions and has born children since  
his absence, soon thereafter, and is now  
an open & known prostitute, and no  
longer deserving the beneficent protection  
of a court of Chancery. The object  
of this bill therefore is to obtain an  
injunction against said John Lawson  
enjoining and inhibiting him from selling



renting leasing or occupying in any  
way said lands until the future order  
of this Court. And upon a hearing to  
obtain a decree setting aside said  
pretended deed exhibit, "A" Construing it for  
naught & holding it void, and said  
lands declared free from the said John  
Lawson, as ~~the said John Lawson~~ his  
~~wife the record such amount were made~~  
~~and her and that said lands be forever~~  
~~released from her demands.~~

His prayer therefore is that said John  
Lawson ~~and Jennie Lawson~~ be made  
parties defendants to this bill and answer  
its allegations upon oath, that said  
Jennie Lawson answer upon her oath  
and say whether or not she is not the  
mother of children not fathered by your  
orator and whether or not she has not  
abandoned all the duties and claims of  
a wife ~~that the ungrateful uncle John~~  
Lawson answer upon his oath specifically  
How he obtained said deed? Who signed  
your orators name thereto? Who attached the  
County seal of Marion County Arkansas to the  
same? whether or not he did not exhibit  
said deed to Abraham Johnson S. S. Maness  
and other citizens of this County when the same



has no signature thereto? Whether or not  
he has not admitted since its recording  
to James H. Moore and various other persons  
that said deed was a "Counterfeit" but  
that he intended to try to hold said land  
under it? And whether or not he ever  
granted anything therefor to whom he paid  
it and how much when and what in  
and that he make full and perfect answer  
to each and every allegation of this bill  
as fully as if put by way of special  
interrogatory - and on a hearing a decree  
be rendered setting aside said deed, County  
it void, and restoring the same to your  
orator free from the claims of John Lawson  
and Jennie Lawson. And for all other  
juster and general relief; May Supra.  
issue &c.

A. L. Ponderman P. 2

Virginia Lee County to wit -

This day John M. Tate attorney in fact for  
Elbert Lawson personally appeared before  
me the undersigned and made oath that  
the foregoing facts so far as known to him  
are true and so far as made upon inform-  
ation of others he believes them to be true.  
Given under my hand this March 28 1882

J. H. Hyatt Clerk



Elbert Lawson

vs  
Bill Chay

John Lawson et al

May 28, Bill killed

Deposition granted in open  
court March 29 1882.

1882, May, Sp. Ex'd. on deft John Lawson  
4 S. N.

" June 20. A conf.

" July cont'd

" Aug cause set for hearing by Dft

" July 2. Decree & cont'd

" Nov order cont'd

1883 M. & Aug & Nov cont'd

1884 Nov & Dec & cont'd

1885. Continued, etc.

Co. Clk 1 25

Clk \$10. 25

SA 15. 00

Const. 1. 50

for notices - James Moore  
witnesses 4. 50

for depositions 17. 00

Notary for copying . 50

\$50. 47

Estimated 2. 00

\$52. 47



To the Honorable John A. Kelly Judge of  
the Circuit Court of Lu County, Va

The answer of John Lawson to a  
bill filed in this Honorable Court against  
him by Elbert Lawson.

This respondent saving the benefit  
of all exceptions which can or may be had  
or taken to said bill upon its final hear-  
ing for its many misstatements of facts  
and false conclusions of law for answer  
thereto, or to so much thereof as he is advised  
it is material or necessary for him to  
answer, answering says, That it is true  
that said Complainant formerly resided  
in this (Lu) County. It is also true that there  
deceased to him from the estate of his  
father Russell Lawson a tract or parcel  
of land or rather two parcels, and he  
supposes that in the partition of the lands  
of Russell Lawson died that lot no 7 was  
assigned to the complainant, Respondent  
also supposes it to be true that said complain-  
ant went into the possession of said lands  
but as to how many years he occupied the  
same respondent is not advised. Nor  
does respondent know what reasons Plain-  
tiff had for suspecting infidelity on the  
part of his wife nor does he know to what



extent the grief and despair caused by  
said suspicions influenced his action  
in removing from this County, to the wit  
Respondent also supposes it to be true, for  
he is advised and informed that such is the  
facts that Jennie Lawson wife of the said  
Complainant brought a suit in this  
Honorable Court for divorce and main-  
tenance and that a decree was entered  
in her favor in said cause setting apart  
said lands for her sole use and benefit  
and that the same were placed in the  
hands of a receiver where they now rest.  
Respondent also admits that he is the uncle  
of the said Complainant but he denies that  
he is either profligate or ungrateful, or that  
the means by which respondent obtained  
a deed and conveyance to said land are  
unknown to the Complainant. But on the  
contrary respondent avers that the means  
by which said deed of conveyance was ob-  
tained are fully known to the Complainant.  
He shows that he sold said lands to the  
Respondent, he shows that respondent paid  
him for them, he shows that he went before  
the Clerk of Marion County Arkansas and  
executed and acknowledged a deed convey-  
ing said lands to respondent, and he further



knows that he directed said clerk to certify  
his said acknowledgment of said deed  
and he knows that said clerk did so cer-  
tify the same in his presence and that  
after he had so acknowledged said deed  
and the said clerk by his direction had  
placed his certificate on said deed, that  
he the Complainant delivered said deed  
to the respondent as and for his deed,  
and said clerk at request of this respondent  
then and there enclosed the said deed in an  
envelope sealed the same and directed it  
to David Lawson a son of this respondent  
in whose possession respondent found  
said deed when he returned to Virginia  
which he did shortly after he purchased  
said land. Said <sup>and</sup> was executed as it pur-  
ports in Marion County Arkansas on  
the 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 1878, and on  
that day as stated above was placed in the  
Post Office and directed to David Lawson  
as aforesaid, and was never in the hands of  
respondent after that time until it was de-  
livered to him by the said David Lawson.  
Respondent will here show your Honor that  
at the time of the execution of said deed he was  
in Gillsville the County site of Marion County  
Arkansas with a load of flour which he



was endeavoring to sell, That he and the said  
Elbert Lawson the Complainant left Yellowstone  
together, and remained together a few days  
until respondent sold out his flocks, and  
delivered his wagon to the Complainant  
as will be hereafter shown in answer to one  
of the Plaintiffs interrogatories, That they  
then parted respondent proceeding direct  
home to Virginia. After arriving at home  
respondent found that the Plaintiffs wife  
had brought her suit before referred to, &  
that a decree had been entered in her favor  
setting apart the rents of said land for  
her benefit. Respondent undertook to  
make an arrangement with her by which  
he might enjoy a part of the profits arising  
from said land, and in his attempt to  
make said arrangement he exhibited  
and showed said deed claiming said  
lands, among others to whom he thus showed  
it, was Jesse Osborn a Justice of  
said county, who upon examination of  
it informed respondent that it was  
defective in this, that it did not have the  
name of Elbert Lawson signed to it  
this was the first knowledge information  
or even intimation that defendant had  
that said deed was defective in any way



Respondent, not knowing what effect this defect of said deed would have he showed it to several persons, and asked their opinion about it and was advised by his friends to return said deed to the said Elbert Lawson for his signature. Respondent after receiving this advice at once enclosed said deed with a letter to H. F. Cantrell Clerk of Morian County Ark before whom the same was acknowledged requesting him, to have said deed signed by the said Elbert Lawson, and return it to Respondent, and in due course of mail I did receive said deed back with the name of Elbert Lawson signed to it as it now appears. Respondent here files said original deed as a part of his answer marked (4) and he avers it to be a genuine deed, he avers that he purchased said land and paid the purchase price which he agreed to pay for it, he avers that said Elbert Lawson acknowledged said deed in his presence before said H. F. Cantrell Clerk of Morian County Ark. and respondent supposed that everything was done that ought to be done to make it what it was intended to be, a genuine deed. Respondent is an illiterate man without any acquaintance with legal forms and little knowledge of even the requisites of a deed, but he does know and he



here again alleges that said deed was  
intended by both himself and the said  
Ebbert to be a genuine deed and the whole  
transaction on his part was bona fide  
and made in good faith and he sup-  
poses the said Ebbert was actuated by  
like motives, but since that time he  
has perhaps fallen into the hands of  
evil counsellors or men actuated it  
may be by selfish motives who have  
advised him to deny his own solemn  
acts and in this way he is trying to  
defraud your respondent by nullify-  
ing a trade made at his own special  
instance and request.

Your respondent denies the allegation  
of fraud practised by him in the  
procurement of the deed aforesaid, and  
again declares his reception of the same  
to have been open, fair, legal, honest  
and for a valuable consideration.

In answer to the first interrogatory  
propounded by the complainant  
your respondent would state as  
he has heretofore done, that he ob-  
tained the deed from Ebbert Lawson  
who acknowledged its execution before  
the Clerk of Marion County Arkansas



In answer to the second interrogatory your Respondent will state that from his own personal knowledge he does not know, who signed the Complainant's name to the said deed, as he returned it to the said clerk who took the acknowledgment of the said deed as heretofore stated in order that the same might be procured, and when the deed was returned to Respondent the signature of Elbert Lawson was affixed to the deed here filed.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Respondent does not know who attached the seal of the County of Marion Arkansas to the deed, but supposes the clerk did it, as it was in his possession on the day of and at the time of its acknowledgment by the Complainant, and supposes the clerk done what was necessary in the premises, not knowing any thing about such matter himself.

4<sup>th</sup>. Respondent did exhibit said deed to person in the county at a time when the Complainant's signature was not affixed to the deed, and



Abraham Johnson and S. S. Mares were among the number.

5. Respondent denies that he ever admitted, to James H. Moore or any one else, that the deed was counterfeit and that he intended to try and hold the land under it as such, but Respondent did say, that he was told, "The said deed was a counterfeit" but he asserted at the time and contended that the deed was genuine and if that was not a good deed, - a good deed could not be made, for Complainant had stood up before the clerk and acknowledged the deed to be good to Respondent, that it was no fault of his, that the signature of the said Eckert was not to the deed, but the fault of the clerk, as Respondent was ignorant of these matters and left the whole thing to the clerk.

6<sup>th</sup>. Respondent did pay to Complainant the stipulated price for the said land in property as here specified, to wit: one two horse wagon, one black



Horse, one pair check lines, one horse collar, one Rifle Gun, one Saddle, about fifty head of hogs, about one hundred and fifty bushels of corn, and about six hundred bundles of Blade fodder, which were delivered to The Complainant by this Respondent in full payment and satisfaction for the land conveyed. The three last items however were subject to a charge <sup>about</sup> of "thirty dollars which Respondent was due his brother Dr. Lawson, and which the said Elbert was to pay and then the residue was to be his. The wagon, Horse, collar lines &c were delivered to the said Elbert about 30 miles South of Yellville The County site of Marion County Arkansas, and the other articles were in Taney County County Missouri on Big Bear Creek, near Respondent's brother Dr. L. where he had formerly resided.

Having now fully answered all and singular the allegations of the said Complainant, said bill, your Respondent would ~~pray~~ that the injunction theretofore granted, inhibiting him from



Selling, renting, leasing or even  
occupying the said land, be dis-  
solved, and your respondent  
be permitted to all the rights, priv-  
ileges and immunities conferred  
by the said deed of conveyance  
as aforesaid. And upon the  
dissolution of the injunction,  
the Complainant be required  
to pay the costs and damages  
necessarily incurred in this  
behalf, and most unjustly  
expended.

John Lawson.

by  
M. D. Richmond

Virginia

Lee County to wit:

appears This day  
personally, John Lawson before me  
The undersigned Clerk of the Circuit  
Court of the said County and made  
oath in due form of law, that the  
Matters and things contained in the  
foregoing answer are, in so far as  
they depend on his own knowledge



True, and in so far as they depend  
on information derived from  
others he believes them to be true.  
Given under my hand this  
the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 1882.

J. A. Hyatt Clerk.



The within answer is excepted to, because  
it does not respond to the bill in this  
particular - It does not state as required  
by the interrogatories "how much he the respondent  
paid" It should state the value of the  
property"

April 19<sup>th</sup> 1882

A. L. Pondmore  
For Plff.

W 40 PM

John Lawson.

Ans. } Answer

Elmer Lawson.

Filed in open Court by  
permission thereof

April 1<sup>st</sup> 1882

J. H. Hyatt  
Clerk



Elbert Lawson	Pdff	} In chg
against	deft	
John Lawson	Pdff	} In chg.
Hagan & Pickens	deft	
against		
John Lawson	deft	

There cause  
 Came on again this day to be  
 read upon the papers formerly  
 read - And was argued by Coun-  
 sel - And by Counsel of Hagan  
 & Pickens, they are to have and  
 receive from Commissioner Duncan  
 when he shall have made sale  
 there of out of the debt decreed  
 in favor of John Lawson, and which  
 was attached by them, the full costs  
 of their said suit, and the sum of  
 \$34. and interest thereon from this date  
 and when paid the said \$34. shall  
 constitute a proper credit on their claim  
 against John Lawson in their settlement  
 with him - Said Court will then pay over  
 to the attorney in fact of Elbert Lawson  
 an amount sufficient to pay the costs  
 as taxed by the clerk in the case of  
 Elbert Lawson against John Lawson &  
 heretofore decreed to said Elbert Lawson



And the value being the sum of \$78. the said Commissioner will pay over to Richmond Duncan atty for John Lawson - To effect which Commissioner C.T. Duncan will proceed to execute the order of sale heretofore directed to him - He will report his action to this Court at some future term and the cause is continued.

Albert Lawson  
or  
John Lawson  
Hogan & Buchanan  
against  
Decree

John Lawson  
March 7, 1884

Entered page 383

J. H. Hyatt  
Clerk

Enter this  
March 29, 1884  
J. H. Hyatt



Elbert Lawson

Plff.

Against

John Lawson

Def.

} In this

This Cause came on this day to be heard upon the bill of the plff, the exhibits filed; the answer of John Lawson ~~the~~ exhibits filed herewith a replication thereto; the depositions of witnesses and the arguments of Counsel.

On Consideration whereof and for reasons appearing to the Court, it is adjudged ordered and decreed that the ~~said~~ paper purporting to be a deed, from Elbert Lawson to John Lawson bearing date the 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1878, and now of record in Lee County Clerk's office the said same is hereby annulled, vacated & set aside, and Counted for naught, and that as between the said Elbert Lawson and John Lawson the said Elbert shall take a hold free from the claims of the said John, the lands in the bill and proceedings mentioned; But the Court further adjudges and decrees that Elbert Lawson, pay to John Lawson for the horse & wagon, sold and delivered by the said John to the said Elbert in the State Arkansas the sum of \$150, the price agreed by the parties Counsel



But before proceeding to sell hereunder the corn measure  
will first notice for at least 30 days before sale on the  
front door of the court house & in the neighborhood where the  
land lies sitting out the true terms & place of sale

to be the value thereof, with legal interest  
thereon from the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Dec. 1878, until  
paid, and unless the said Albert Lawson  
or some one for him pay the same within  
30 days from the rising of this Court  
then *Chas. T. Duncan*

who is hereby appointed a commis-  
sioner for the purpose will sell so  
much of the land in the bill men-  
tioned as will pay <sup>the expenses & commissions of sale</sup> the same, after  
deducting therefrom the costs of this  
suit which is decreed in favor  
of the plff. He will sell the same by  
public out-cry to the highest bidder on  
some court day at the grant door of the Court House of Sec. 10.  
a credit of 12 months, requiring 20 in  
much paid in hand as will pay the  
costs of suit & sale; and take bond  
payable to himself <sup>with approved security bearing interest of 6%</sup> as corn measurer for  
the deferred payment; & will report his  
action to this court & the cause is continued.

Albert Lawson

vs  
Decree  
for Sale

John Lawson

Aug 7. 1882

Entered Page 280.

J. A. Hyatt  
Clerk

Enter this

Sept-7-1882

for at. &c.



Elbert Lawson Plff }  
                    Against } In Ch.  
John Lawson Deft }

on the motion  
of the plff. in <sup>this</sup> cause in open court, in  
the reading of the bill an argument of counsel  
and due consideration thereof, an injunction  
is awarded enjoining and restraining John Lawson  
from selling, renting, leasing or occupying  
the lands in the bill mentioned until the  
future order of this Court, but before the  
plff shall have the benefit of said injunc-  
tion, he or some one for him shall execute  
before the clerk of this Court a bond in  
the penalty of \$500. conditioned, to faithfully  
abide by and duly perform the future orders  
of this Court, and to pay to the defendant  
John Lawson any <sup>costs or</sup> damages that may  
be decreed to him <sup>or that he may sustain</sup> by reason of said in-  
junction, should the same decree be dissolved.



Albert Lawson

or 3 Impacted  
Teeth.

John Lawson

March 5. 1882

Entered Page 228 - Choy

O.B.

J. A. Hyatt  
Clerk

Enter this

March 27 / 82

J. A. Keely



# The Commonwealth of Virginia.

To any Justice of the Peace, Notary Public or Commissioner appointed by the Governor of said State, resident in the State of *Arkansas* authorized to take Depositions in the County of *Marion* State of *Arkansas* —GREETING:

Know ye that we, trusting to your fidelity and provident circumspection, do require you, that at such time and place as you shall appoint, to call and cause to come before you

*N. H. Cantrell*

Witness on behalf of

*Elbert Lawson*

in a certain

*suit in Chancery*

pending in the

*Circuit* Court of Lee County between

*said Elbert Lawson*

Plaintiff and

*John Lawson*

Defendant, and

*him*

diligently

examine, touching the same in solemn form on oath or affirmation, and having received *his* examination as aforesaid,

that you distinctly, plainly, and without delay certify, sign, and send the same enclosed into our said Court together with

this Writ. Witness, J. A. G. HYATT Clerk of our said Court, at the Court House, this the *5<sup>th</sup>* day of *June*

188*2*, in the *106* year of the Commonwealth.

*J. A. G. Hyatt*, Clerk.

I do solemnly swear that

*N. H. Cantrell*

whose name

*is*

mentioned as witness in the commission above *is* a non-resident of the State of

Virginia, so help me God.

Sworn to before me this

*5<sup>th</sup>* day of *June*

188

*Geo M. Tate*

*J. A. G. Hyatt*, Clerk.



Elbert Lawson

vs <sup>3</sup> <sub>3</sub> Com. to Take Depo

John Lawson



Mr Jno. Lawson you will take notice that on  
the 12<sup>th</sup> day of July 1882 at the Office of  
William Fielding Notary Public, in Marion  
County Arkansas I will proceed to take the  
Deposition of R. F. Cantrelle whose evidence is  
intended to be read on my behalf in a certain  
suit now pending in the circuit court of  
Lee County Virginia wherein I am Dft. and  
you are the Dft. And if from any cause  
the taking of said deposition should not  
be commenced or if commenced and not  
completed on that day I will adjourn  
from day to day and time to time if  
necessary until the same is completed.

Yours very Respectfully  
Elbert Lawson  
By Atty. In fact.



State of Virginia }  
Lee County }

I Certify That James M. Moore  
Personally appeared before me, And in my  
County, And made oth in due form of Law  
That he delivered a true copy of the within  
notice on May the 29<sup>th</sup> 1882 to Jno. Lawson

Given under my official Signature  
May the 29<sup>th</sup> 1882

Jno. M. Tate J. P.



Albert Lawson

vs

John Lawson

In the Circuit Court  
of Lee County Virginia

Deposition of Kemner F.  
Cautrell taken pursuant

to notice and commission before  
William Fielding a Notary Public of  
Marion County Arkansas in the office  
of William Fielding a Notary Public at  
Yellville in the County of Marion and  
State of Arkansas on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of  
July 1882

Kemner F. Cautrell a wit-  
ness of lawful age after being first  
duly sworn deposes and says

"My name is Kemner F. Cautrell  
and my age is twenty eight years  
I am clerk of the Circuit Court  
of Marion County and State of Ark-  
ansas and ex officio clerk of the  
County Court of the same County  
and State. I have been clerk  
for nearly four years last past.

I am not personally acquainted  
with Albert Lawson, the plaintiff,  
nor with John Lawson the defendant  
in this cause. I do not remem-  
ber to have ever seen John Lawson

I saw Albert Lawson (or a  
person who represented him-  
self to be Albert Lawson)



last February, I do not remember to have ever seen him before that time. I do not remember to have ever taken Elbert Lawson's acknowledgment to <sup>a deed to</sup> any lands in the State of Virginia, either on the 10th day of December 1878 or at any other time, but I cannot state positively that I did not, as I take a great many acknowledgements of deeds, and I might have taken that of Elbert Lawson and have forgotten the transaction.

I never received from John Lawson any deed from Virginia or from any other place not signed by grantor, with my certificate of acknowledgment to it, with instructions to have Elbert Lawson or any other person sign it, I am certain I would have remembered a transaction of this kind, as I have never had any deed returned to me for correction in this way since I have been in office.

I usually take acknowledg-



ments as clerk of the Circuit  
Court, but I may have stated  
myself, in some acknowledge-  
ments, to be Clerk of the County  
Court of Marion County Arkan-  
sas, as I am Clerk of both  
Courts, and the seal of the  
Circuit Court is like the seal  
of both Courts and the only  
one I am required to use

K. F. Cantrell

I, William Fielding a Notary  
Public in and for the County  
of Marion and State of Arkansas  
do hereby certify that the foregoing  
deposition of K. F. Cantrell was  
taken before me and was read to  
and subscribed by him in my  
presence at the time and place and  
in the action mentioned in the caption,  
the said Cantrell having been first  
sworn by me that the evidence he  
should give in the action should be  
the truth, the whole truth and nothing  
but the truth, and his statements  
reduced to writing by me in his  
presence, the plaintiff alone being  
present by attorney

Witness my hand and official seal  
this 12th day of July 1882

William Fielding Notary Public  
of Marion County Arkansas



Elbert Lawson  
vs. Depo. for Plff.  
John Lawson et al.

Received, sealed and in  
good Condition;  
and filed July 21/1882  
J. A. Hyatt  
Clerk



Mr Jno. Lawson you will please take notice  
That on June the 30<sup>th</sup> day 1882 at the dwelling  
house of Jno. M. Salis in Lee county Virginia  
I will proceed to take the Deposition of James  
H. Self James M. Moore and others whose evidence  
are intended to be read on my behalf in  
a certain suit now pending in the Circuit  
court of Lee county Virginia wherein I am  
Plt. and you are Def. And if from any cause  
the taking of said Depositions should not  
be commenced or if commenced and not com-  
pleted on that day I will adjourn from  
time to time and from place to place if  
necessary until all are completed

Yours &c.

Ernest Lawson

By Atty. in fact,



State of Virginia }  
Lee County }

I certify That James M.  
More Personally appeared before me and  
in my County on May the 29<sup>th</sup> 1882  
and made oath in due form of Law  
That he delivered a true copy of the  
within notice to Jno. Lawson on May  
the 29<sup>th</sup> 1882

Given under my official Signature  
May 29<sup>th</sup> 1882

Jno. M. Tate J.P.

Edw. Lawson, Locality.  
w. J. Smith, J.P. at 0.01  
as J. Smith  
John Lawson - - - both



The Commonwealth of Virginia,  
To W. C. Bonham, Constable of Lee County.  
Greeting: -

We command you to summon, Jesse Geborn to appear before me, on the 7th day of August 1882, at the office of the Clerk of the ~~Clerk of the~~ Circuit Court of Lee County, Virginia, for the purpose of shewing cause, if any he can, why he should not be fined twenty dollars for failure to attend as a witness in behalf of Elbert Lawson, per John M. Tate, Attorney-in-fact Plaintiff in a certain suit now pending in the Circuit Court of Lee County wherein John Lawson is debt) on this day.

And have them there this writ.

Witness, my hand, this, 29th day of July 1882, in the 107th year of the Commonwealth.

Teste - John B. West, A. C.



Elbert Lawson per  
John M. Tate, atty. in  
fact vs. Plff

John Lawson Deft } Rule.

August 7th 1882  
At Court Clerk's Office.

Executed Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>  
day 1882.

W. B. Bonham Cde



Dwelling House of John M. Tate Esq. Lee Co. Va.

June 30th 1882 - 9 O'clock A. M.

Elbert Lawson, per John M. Tate Atty. in fact Plff

vs.

John Lawson - - - - - Defd

In Chy.

The depositions of James H. Delp, James M. More and others, taken pursuant to notice at the dwelling house of John M. Tate in Lee County Va., and which are intended to be read as evidence in behalf of the Plaintiff in a certain suit in chancery now pending in the Circuit Court of Lee County, wherein Elbert Lawson, per John M. Tate, his Atty. in fact, is Plaintiff and John Lawson is Defendant.

Hiram More, a witness of lawful age, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he heard the defendant, John Lawson, say in the presence of Austin Bledsoe, another witness in behalf of Plaintiff, that Elbert Lawson (the Plaintiff) did not sign the deed referred to in Plaintiff's bill, but says the defendant to use his (defendants) own words "I'll beat him on the Certificate"; and in answer to a question from the Plaintiff's Atty. in fact deponent further states, that in his judgment, at the time of the alleged execution by Elbert Lawson, of said deed, the valuation of the real estate conveyed or alleged to have been conveyed, according to



(2)  
to the valuation of other lands in vicinity,  
was at least twelve hundred dollars,  
and in answer to another question of Plain-  
tiff, deponent does not believe, that Elbert  
Lawson aforesaid could write his own  
name, and was exceedingly illiterate  
in every respect.

And further this deponent saith not.

Hiram <sup>his</sup> ~~More~~  
mark

The said James M. More, another witness of  
lawful age, being first duly sworn, deposes and  
says: - That ~~John~~ Lawson, the defendant,  
in the presence of John M. Tate, William Brotherton,  
James H. Delf, and other citizens of ~~other~~ County,  
in answer to the following question by said  
John M. Tate, in words to following effect viz. John,  
please state in presence of these boys, whether  
Elbert Lawson ever made a deed to you  
of the lands alleged to have been made  
by him to you? the said John Lawson said  
(after some hesitation in replying) about in  
these words, Elbert Lawson did not execute  
such deed, it was counterfeit, but I'll beat  
you on the certificate; and deponent fur-  
ther states, that in the presence of said John M.  
Tate, and himself, John Lawson said, that  
Elbert Lawson was not entitled to justice; and  
in answer to question of said atty. in - fact



deponent further states, that he was born and reared in the neighborhood of said Elbert Lawson, went to school with him, and if he was ever able to write his own name legibly, the fact was not known to deponent, who was with him and others a sufficient number of times to have witnessed or learned the same had such fact existed.

And further this deponent saith not.

James, M. More  
S. S. Maness, another witness, of lawful age, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:—

Question by Plaintiffs atty-in-fact, John M. Tate. Mr Maness, please state at what time the Deft. John Lawson exhibited to you the alleged deed aforesaid of Elbert Lawson aforesaid, if he did so, <sup>and</sup> whether said alleged deed was signed by said Elbert Lawson?

Answer by witness. Mr John Lawson did exhibit it to me what he alleged as a deed from said Elbert Lawson, but as to the exact time he did so, I cannot state; I remember, however, clearly, that the weather was cold, believe it was in the Spring of the year, and not long after Mr ~~John~~ Lawson returned from the West, exact year don't remember; I suppose the object Mr John Lawson had, in exhibiting said deed to me was, to get my opinion as to its validity in this state; after examination I saw that the



~~Albert~~ name <sup>of Elbert Lawson</sup> was not to it, or rather to the ~~certifi~~  
~~cate~~ deed, told him, I didn't think it a valid deed,  
+ Mr John Lawson said it made no difference  
as it was in the caption (as he said) of the  
~~deed~~ I remember that I said to John  
Lawson; altho' the clerk's name is to the Certif-  
icate, you see <sup>Elbert's name deeds</sup> it is not to, and I remember  
it was in the morning when we were conversing,  
+ I illustrated my position by saying, if I was  
to swear it was midnight, would you believe it?  
and I don't remember any reply that John  
Lawson aforesaid made.

Question by Plaintiff. How long after you saw  
the deed without Elbert Lawson's name signed to it  
until you saw it with said Elbert Lawson's  
name signed to the deed?

Answer by witness. It was a considerable length  
time.

Question by Plaintiff. Mr Maness when you did  
see said deed, what kind of handwriting  
was it in, or rather the signature to deed in?

Answer by witness. It was in a well executed  
hand-writing, indicating rather a copy hand.

Question by Plaintiff. Mr Maness you have  
been sometime living a neighbor to said Elbert  
Lawson, do you believe what was represented  
to be his signature was really in his hand-wri-  
ting or in the hand-writing of somebody else, in



other words, do you believe it was a forgery?

Answer by witness. said Elbert Lawson was reared within a short distance of me, and I knew him as well as any boy in my neighborhood, and I do not believe that what purported to be his hand writing was really his signature.

Question by Plaintiff. When you advised Mr John Lawson, that the deed was defective in not having Elbert's name to the deed, what did Mr John Lawson aforesaid reply?

Answer by witness. Mr John Lawson replied, that he did not then know where said Elbert Lawson was, that he talked of going to Texas is my recollection; I said to him that I saw no chance for him, but to send said alleged deed back to the Clerk, and have Elbert aforesaid all together, and have the mistake corrected.

And thereupon the Plaintiff turned his witness over to defendant, provided he desires to Cross Examine.

Question by deft. Mr Maness, I desire to ask you first, was the signature of Elbert Lawson to said deed, in my handwriting?

Answer by witness. I do not believe it was.

Question by deft. Since said answer, the deft. John Lawson says he <sup>has</sup> no further question now to ask last named witness.

And further the deponent S. S. Maness saith not.  
Sterling S. Maness



Isam Lawson, <sup>(8)</sup> another witness, of lawful age, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: -  
Question by Plaintiff. Mr Lawson, are you a brother of Elbert Lawson of whom in this suit John M. Tate is the atty-in-fact - in ~~that sense~~ <sup>other words</sup> are you brother of Plaintiff? also?

Answer by witness. I am.

Question by Plaintiff. Will you state whether or not Elbert Lawson can write his name legibly, or so that it can be read scarcely?

Answer by witness. He could not when he left here, and that was a short time before said deed purports to have been made.

And further deponent saith not.

Edham Lawson,

Abraham Johnson, a witness of lawful age, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: -

Ques. by Plaintiff. Mr Johnson please state whether Mr John Lawson, deft, ever exhibited to you a deed purporting to be a deed for his real estate in Lee county, i. e. for Elbert Lawson's estate?

Answer by witness. He did.

Ques. by Plaintiff. Was or not Elbert Lawson's name signed to said deed?

Answer by witness. It was not.

Ques. by Plaintiff. Mr Johnson do you recollect what year, and what time of the year Mr John Lawson exhibited to you said alleged deed?

Answer by witness. To the best of my recollection



it was in the year 1878, it was possibly in the Spring of said year.

Ques. by Plaintiff. Did deft. Mr John Lawson tell you the said deed was made the 10th day of December 1878?

Answer by witness. He did, and I believe that it was in the Spring of 1879 that Mr John Lawson, deft, exhibited to me said deed, after some reflection.

Ques. by Plaintiff. Mr Lawson, how long was it after you saw said deed without Elbert Lawson's signature to it, till you saw said deed with his signature?

Answer by witness. Did not see said deed any more till last winter, after I first saw it.

Ques. by Plaintiff. Did the Certificate of the Clerk and said deed bear same date when you first saw it?

Answer by witness. I do not recollect.

Ques. by Plaintiff. Did Mr John Lawson ever offer to sell to you any portion of the real estate of Elbert Lawson, claiming the right to do so under said blank deed?

Answer by witness. He did.

Ques. by Plaintiff. What did Mr John Lawson say to you, when you found this defect in said deed?

Answer by witness. Mr Lawson said it was a good deed.



Ques. by Plaintiff. How long after you saw said deed with the name of Elbert Lawson not signed to it, till it was removed in the country that it was?

Answer by witness. A few days, and said John Lawson told me he had had the said deed fixed up, and proposed to sell to me again, but did not further exhibit said deed to me.

Ques. by Plaintiff. Are you acquainted with the hand-writing of Elbert Lawson, and would you know it, if you see it

Answer by witness. I have not any time seen his hand-writing, I don't think he can write.

Cross-Examination by Deft. John Lawson: -

Mr Johnson do you believe that the signature to said deed was in my hand-writing?

Ans. by witness. I do not.

And further deponent saith not.

Abraham Johnson

It being now 6 O'clock P. M. and no other witnesses on behalf of Plaintiff appearing  
It is ordered that further taking of these depositions be continued till tomorrow morning, at same place, 9 O'clock, A.M. John B. West, A.C.

Dwelling House of John M. Tate Esq

July 1st, 9 O'clock A. M.

Austin Bledsoe, another witness of  
lawful



age, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: -

Question. Mr Bledsoe, did you hear the deft, in this cause say in your presence Hiram More, that he, the deft John Lawson, relied for success in this cause mainly upon the clerk's certificate to the alleged deed of Elbert Lawson?

Answer by witness. I did.

State what else, John Lawson aforesaid, remarked in connection with said deed at the same time & place, and in presence of Hiram More.

John Lawson said at same time, Elbert Lawson did not sign said deed, I am free to acknowledge; Mr Lawson said this to me as we were on our way to court at Jonesville last month. And further this deponent saith not.

Amos Bledsoe

James M. Delf, another witness of lawful age, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: -

That a conversation took place some time last spring between <sup>John M. Tate and</sup> himself, the deft John Lawson, and I was present; the word counterfeit was used, but whether John Lawson said, it is a counterfeit deed, or that it was a counterfeit deed I don't now remember, but he, John Lawson deft, said it is or it was a counterfeit deed, one or the other; and Mr Delf further states, that said John Lawson



then said, the deed was not <sup>signed</sup> by Elbert Law-  
son when it came here from the West, but  
John Tate, if it is a bogus deed or not, I'll  
beat you upon the Clerk's Certificate, are  
about the words I heard him use; and I  
distinctly remember, that John M. Tate (Atty  
-in-fact of Elbert Lawson in this cause) did not  
hint or suggest, that said deed was coun-  
terfeit, the same having been wholly suggested  
by the deft. John Lawson.

And further this deponent saith not.

J. H. Delp

William Brotherton, another witness of law-  
ful age, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:-  
It was in my presence, sometime this last  
Spring, that I heard a conversation between  
John M. Tate (atty-in-fact for Elbert Lawson  
in this cause) and the deft. John Lawson; and  
John Lawson used this expression in reference  
to the deed referred to in this cause, I ac-  
knowledge, it is counterfeit; but, says he,  
John Lawson! I'll beat you upon the Certifi-  
cate, said the deed was not signed by El-  
bert when the deed came here from the West;  
but, if it is a bogus deed, he reiterated with  
emphasis, John ~~Lawson~~ <sup>Tate</sup>, I'll beat you upon the  
Certificate; I further state, that the deed being  
counterfeit was not suggested or hinted by  
said John M. Tate, the word being first used



by the deft. John Lawson; and said John Tate then asked the deft John Lawson, did you send the said deed back to Elbert Lawson aforesaid to have him sign the deed, and deft John Lawson replied, I have not received or sent any mail to that country since I left.

And further deponent saith not.

W<sup>m</sup> Bratherton

A fact within the knowledge of the witness Jas. M. More, having an important bearing in this cause & which was accidentally omitted by said More in his deposition on yesterday, upon request & instance of said witness, I herewith attach his statement of the fact referred to, to wit: -

In answer to the question by John M. Tate (during the conversation referred to between said Tate & deft Lawson) did you send said deed back to Elbert Lawson in order that he may sign it? John Lawson replied in effect, I have not received nor have I sent any mail matter to the West since I left there.

John B. West, A. P.

6 O'clock P. M. No other

witness appearing, the hour being too late to reasonably expect that any other witnesses will be before me on this day to give evidence, the further taking of these depositions is postponed till Tuesday, July 18th. 1882, at Jonesville, office of the Circuit Court



Clerk of Lee County Va., 9 o'clock A.M.  
John B. West, N.P.

Office of the Circuit Court Clerk  
Jonesville, Lee County Va., July 18th 1882.  
— 2 O'clock A.M.

Elbert Lawson, per John M. Tate, Atty-in-fact Plff  
against  
John Lawson - - - - - Deft.

No witness appearing on this  
day, the further taking of these depositions  
is postponed till Saturday, the 29th inst,  
same time and place.

John B. West, N.P.

Office of Cir Court clk, Lee Co. Va. July 29th 1882.  
— 9 o'clock A.M.  
Elbert Lawson, per John M. Tate, Atty-in-fact Plff  
against  
John Lawson - - - - - Deft } In Chancery

No witness appearing on this  
day, and the hour of 6 O'clock P.M.  
having arrived, the further taking of the  
depositions, begun on 20th ult, is, on  
motion of the Plaintiff, postponed  
till next Monday, the 7th day of August  
1882, same place, at 9 o'clock A.M.

John B. West, N.P.

Office of Circuit Court Clerk Lee Co. Va.  
Augt 7th 1882.



Albert Lawson, per John M. Tate, atty-in-fact Plff.

vs.

John Lawson

Def't

In  
Chancery

The deposition of said John M. Tate, Plaintiff, another witness of lawful age, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

I met Jno. Lawson at Baxter Brothers Store in Hancock Tenn. And a conversation arose between the said Jno. Lawson who is the Defendant in this cause and myself in the presence of Jas. H. Jeff James M. More and William Brotherton some time last winter or early spring, in regard to this suit. John Lawson said to me in about these words, Sir, I know the Seed is a counterfeit Seed but I am going to beat you on the Clarke certificate. I asked Jno Lawson then, How Alberts Lawson name come to be signed to the deed, whether Al (Johns Lawson), sent it back to the clerk where it purports to have been taken and acknowledged, by mail or otherwise and his answer was about in these words, Sir, I have had no mail from the west nor neither have I sent any since I left, which time he afterwards said was some time in December 1878. he said he got home about



The 27<sup>th</sup> day of Dec. 1888. I at another time  
interrogated The Defendant about The matter,  
and was rebuking The Saide Defendant  
for trying to wrong his own Nephew out  
of his land, in any such a way, and he  
answered me Elbert Lawson is not-entire  
to justice. The land of Elbert-Lawson  
that John Lawson takes to home under his  
pretended deed I am acquainted with  
have surveyed it all out, and consider it  
to be worth \$1000. or \$1200. dollars, in  
good close hay.

And further more This Clement Saide  
not Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> 1882

J. no. M. Tate

Jesse Osborn, another witness of  
lawful age, being first duly sworn, de-  
poses and says: - That the Defendant  
John Lawson exhibited to him the deed  
herein referred to, and that he, witness  
called his attention to the fact that Elbert  
Lawson's name or signature was not  
at end of deed in proper place, and  
witness told Mr Lawson, that the deed was  
no account unless Elbert's signature  
was at end of deed & that he could  
not make a deed from that one to  
another person without having Elbert's



name affixed thereto; and only a few days after said conversation, and a shorter time than the mail could have gone to Arkansas and return, it was rumored in the country around that Albert's signature was attached to the deed. Witness further states, that the claim of Albert Lawson in the lands, under said pretended deed, he estimates to be worth fifteen hundred dollars, or at least if his property, he would not take less. And further this deponent saith not.

Jesse Ausburn

No other witness appearing on this day and the hour of 6 O'clock P.M. having arrived, the further taking of these depositions is, on motion of Plaintiff, postponed till Tuesday, the 22nd inst, same place, 10 O'clock A.M. John B. West, A.P.

Office of Clerk of Circuit Court  
of Lee County, Va. Aug. 22nd 1882.

Albert Lawson, per John M. Tate Atty in fact Plff  
vs.

John Lawson - - - - - Dft

No witness appearing on this day, the further taking of these depositions are concluded. John B. West, A.P.



Virginian, Lee County, to wit:—

I, John B. West, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, do certify that the foregoing depositions were taken, sworn to, and subscribed before me at the times, places, and for the purpose therein set forth.

Given under my hand this, 2<sup>nd</sup>, day of August 1882.

John B. West. N.P.

Colbert, Sawney, per John  
Ch. State, atty. in fact, 1882

vol. Depositions.

John Sawney, Deft.

Filed August 22, 1882.

J. A. Hyatt

Clerk

Notary, Public, fee \$34.50

Constables .50

Witnesses 4.50

\$39.50

Notary's Fees reduced 17.50

\$22.00



# The Commonwealth of Virginia.

To any Justice of the Peace, Notary Public or Commissioner appointed by the Governor of said State, resident in the State of Missouri authorized to take Depositions in the County of Christian State of Missouri —GREETING:

Know ye that we, trusting to your fidelity and provident circumspection, do require you, that at such time and place as you shall appoint; to call and cause to come before you

*Elbert Lawson*

Witness on behalf of

*Elbert Lawson*

in a certain *suit in Chancery*  
pending in the *circuit* Court of Lee County between said *Elbert Lawson*  
Plaintiff and *John Lawson* Defendant, and *him* diligently  
examine, touching the same in solemn form on oath or affirmation, and having received *his* examination as aforesaid,  
that you distinctly, plainly, and without delay certify, sign, and send the same enclosed into our said Court together with  
this Writ. Witness, J. A. G. HYATT Clerk of our said Court, at the Court House, this the *5<sup>th</sup>* day of *June*  
188*2*, in the *106* year of the Commonwealth.

*J. A. G. Hyatt*, Clerk.

I do solemnly swear that

*Elbert Lawson*

whose name

*is*

mentioned as witness in the commission above

*is a*

non-resident of the State of

Virginia, so help me God.

Sworn to before me this

*5<sup>th</sup>*

day of

*June*

188

*2*

*Jno M. Tate*

*J. A. G. Hyatt*, Clerk.



Elbert Lawson  
vs Com, to take Depo.  
John Lawson

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Mr. Geo. Lawson you will take notice that on  
the 17<sup>th</sup> day of July 1882 at the office of  
J. E. Keels in Christian County Mo. I will  
proceed to take the Deposition of myself and  
probably others which Depositions are intended  
to be read as evidence on my behalf in  
a certain Suit now pending in the Circuit  
Court of Lee County Virginia wherein I am  
Plff. and you are Def. And if from any cause  
the taking of said Deposition or Depositions should  
not be commenced or if commenced and not  
completed on that day I will again from  
day to day until the same are complete

Yours Respectfully

Albert Lawson

By Atty in fact.



State of Virginia }  
Lee County }

I Certify that James M.  
More Personally appeared before me, and in my  
County, and made oath in due form of Law,  
that he delivered to Jno. Sawson a true copy  
of the within notice, on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of  
May 1882

Given under my official Signature  
May 29<sup>th</sup> 1882

Jno. M. Tate J.D.



Albert Lawson  
75  
John Lawson

In the Circuit Court of Lee County,  
Virginia, in Chancery Depositions  
of Albert Lawson and others taken  
before me, James R. Bell, a Notary Public  
in and for the County of Christians,  
in the State of Missouri, pursuant  
to notice and commission hereto  
annexed at my office in the Court  
house, in the town of Ozark,  
in said County of Christian and  
State of Missouri, on the 17th day  
of July, 1882, between the hours  
of six am. and until 6 p.m. to be  
read in evidence in a certain cause  
now pending in the Circuit Court  
of Lee County, Virginia, wherein  
Albert Lawson is Plaintiff and  
John Lawson is Defendant  
Present: W. H. Pollard, Counsel for Plff;  
J. J. Gideon Counsel for Defendant

Albert <sup>plaintiff of lawful age</sup> Lawson, being produced, <sup>on part of Plff</sup> and  
<sup>and after first being</sup> duly sworn deposes and says:  
Some time in the fall of 1877 I  
was living in Lee County, Virginia;  
John Lawson and Arthur Rogers  
induced me to leave Virginia and  
come to the State of Missouri;  
Some time in the fall of the year  
1878, I went to Boone County, <sup>Arkansas</sup>  
to pick cotton; and some time  
just before Christmas of 1878, John  
Lawson came to where I was  
at work and proposed to take



me back to Virginia: I started  
with him and some time just  
before Christmas we passed through  
the town of Yellville, where we  
stayed not more than one hour,  
and while there I never left the  
wagon and I was not in  
any house in the town:  
John Lawson left the wagon  
and was gone for a while,  
but came back and got in  
the wagon and drove across  
White River that night, a distance  
of ten or twelve miles: I went  
about one hundred miles further  
with John Lawson, when he  
wanted to buy a debt that I held  
against Arthur Rogers for Two  
Hundred and Fifty Dollars for  
rent of my lands and not  
being when Rogers lived  
and considering the debt not  
worth much, I sold it to John  
Lawson for one wagon, one  
horne, and harness or gears for  
one horne: John Lawson and  
I then parted and I never saw  
him any more until about  
one week ago: I never sold  
my land to John Lawson or to  
any one else: I never signed



a deed to my lands in Virginia  
before the Clerk of the County of  
Marion in the State of Arkansas  
conveying to said land to John  
Lawson or to any other person;  
I never saw the Clerk of Marion  
County Arkansas in my life  
until about the 14th day of  
February, 1882, when I went  
there to see about the deed John  
Lawson claimed to have for my  
lands; I never signed said  
deed, nor authorized any one  
to sign it for me; I can  
not write my name; I always  
sign by mark; I can not  
read writing; I never sold my  
land to John Lawson nor  
never agreed to sell it to him;

(Cross examined by Defendants attorney)  
I left Virginia in August or  
September, 1877; When I left there  
I started to go to Missouri; John  
Lawson did not leave Virginia  
with me; I went to Arkansas  
to pick cotton in August 1878;  
I went to Boone County Arkansas;  
I had been at work in Arkansas  
about two weeks when John Lawson  
came to me; John Lawson  
came to me and wanted me to go



back to Virginia: we started  
in about a week and we  
started for Jackson Port to get  
on a boat: and I got way  
down to Iuka, in Arkansas,  
and we had a load of flour  
and we sold it out and I  
took a notion I would not go  
any further - and he got at me  
to go with him a piece and I  
went with him a little beyond  
Iuka and I told him I was  
going to come back to Faneys Aunt;  
I turned around and came back  
about four miles and I stopped  
and stayed there about a year  
and I took a notion to go to  
Fulton County: John Lawson  
went on; I never proposed to sell  
my land to John Lawson for a  
certain horse; We went by Yellville  
Arkansas to sell some flour: It  
is not true that I sold my  
land in Virginia to Mr. John  
Lawson for one black horse  
and a wagon: It is not true  
that I acknowledged a deed before  
the Clerk of Marion County, Arkansas,  
conveying my land to John  
Lawson: I did not hold a  
flour sack while Mr. Lawson



paid the Clerk for the acknowledgment;  
It is not true that Mr. Lawson  
paid the Clerk of Marion County,  
Arkansas, flour for the acknowledg-  
ment; I am not acquainted  
with the Clerk of Marion County  
Arkansas; John Lawson gave  
me a horse and wagon and  
gear for the debt on Rogers  
and it is not true that ~~they~~  
the horse, wagon and gear  
went in on the land; I  
did not hold Arthur Rogers  
note for the debt; I never tore  
up Arthur Rogers' note after  
he came to this country; I  
did not about the year  
1879 state to Daniel Bloomer  
that I had sold my land in  
Lee County Virginia to John  
Lawson for a horse and wagon  
and had received the pay for  
the same; I told John Lawson  
to go to Manns and get the  
writings about the debt on  
Rogers; I could not say whether  
I did or did not state to Ira  
Lawson of Taney County, Mo., that  
I sold John Lawson my land  
in Lee County Virginia; If I  
did tell him I had sold my  
land in Lee County, Virginia, it



was false; I did not in 1879  
tell Arthur Rogers that I had  
sold my land in Lee County  
Virginia to John Lawson nor  
words to that effect; I did not  
in the presence of Carter Lawson  
in 1879 state that I had sold  
my land to John Lawson; I  
do not think I stated to Phillip  
Roller in Tamey County that I had  
sold my land in Virginia to  
John Lawson; I did not in  
the presence of Mr Roller and  
Jim Johnson, of Tamey County,  
state that I had sold my land in  
Lee County Virginia to John  
Lawson; I am as sure that  
I made no statements to the parties  
regarding as I am as to the other  
facts that I have testified to.

(Re-direct examination by Plff's attorney)  
It is a fact that Iru Lawson, John  
Lawson and others have been at  
me and trying to get my land  
in Lee County, Virginia for  
less than it was worth; It  
is a fact that if I told these parties  
that I had sold my land in Virginia  
it was to get rid of them; I  
am not to say acquainted



with the Clerk of Marion  
County Arkansas, though I saw  
him last February.

(Re-Cross examination by Defts attorney)  
Jm Roller was not trying to buy  
my land; Phillip Roller was  
not trying to buy my land;  
Daniel Bloomer was not  
trying to buy my land; Arthur  
Rogers was not trying to buy  
my land; Ira Lawson did  
try to buy my land: If I  
told this fact I had sold my  
land it was to keep Ira Lawson  
from "ding downing" me: Ira  
Lawson tried to buy my land  
this spring - in April, 1882.

attest: Jas. R. Bell

Elbert <sup>his</sup> <sub>mark</sub> Lawson

Subscribed & sworn to before me this  
July 15, 1882, my term expires February  
26, 1883. Witness my hand & Notarial  
seal.

Jas. R. Bell, Notary Public

John Lawson, a witness of lawful  
age being produced in part of  
this plaintiff and after being duly  
sworn deposes and says:  
I left Virginia because I had  
been making illicit whiskey;  
and the Revenue officers got



after me and I had to leave;  
Jim Johnson down on Beaver  
in Taney County, wrote the deed  
I claim. Elbert made me; the  
time the deed was written Elbert  
was down in Arkansas; Elbert  
said he would let me have the  
land for a little black horse &  
wagon; I let Elbert have little  
black horse & wagon, pair of  
check lines and one collar  
and the remainder of a saddle if  
it was found and after Ira Lawson  
was paid he was to have my  
corn, hogs and fodder; I had  
from 40 to 60; Ira was to have  
his pay first and Elbert the  
balance; I do not know how  
much corn I was to let him  
have; I had put up about  
one thousand bundles of fodder,  
but I do not know how much  
I had fed and don't know how  
much fodder Elbert was to  
have; I only delivered to Elbert  
horse & wagon and pair of  
check lines and collar; I  
never heard tell of the note  
on Rogers; I never got the note;  
I never got the note from Mammis;  
I never had an order for Mammis



for a note! I never read the deed  
to Elbert! No one ever read  
the deed to Elbert Lawson!  
I do not know who signed  
Elbert's name to the deed!  
I did not know it at the  
time the deed was made that  
Elbert Lawson could not  
write! I have learned since  
that he can not write! After  
we left Yellville we drove  
a piece of a day and another  
day before Elbert turned back or  
left me! After I left Elbert  
I went straight back to Virginia!  
After I got back to Virginia  
I showed the deed to Aguir  
Lawson and he said there  
was something lacking! that  
Elbert's name was not signed  
to the deed! S. P. Mannus told me  
to send the deed back to Yellville  
and have the Clerk sign Elbert's  
name to the deed! I sent  
the deed back to the Clerk at  
Yellville! I addressed the deed  
to K. F. Cantrell, at Yellville,  
Arkansas! I mailed the deed  
at Kiles Ford, Hancock County  
Tennessee! I did not register  
the deed to the Clerk! I sent  
the deed to the Clerk in Yellville



before I went to Albany, New York,  
I received the deed book at Kiles  
Ford; I did not address the  
letter to Cantrall; I do not  
know who addressed the  
letter; I got the letter at home  
sealed and do not know what  
was in it; I do not know where  
the letter containing the deed that  
I received at Kiles Ford purported  
to be mailed.

Daniel Bloomer, a witness of lawful  
age being produced on the part of  
the ~~Plaintiff~~ Defendant and after  
being duly sworn deposes and  
says:

After Elbert Lawson came back  
from Arkansas I asked him if  
he had sold his land and he  
said that he had; He never



stated what he got for it:

(Cross examined by Peffi attorney)  
I do not recollect what year  
he made this statement: In a  
short time after making the first  
statement he also told me that  
he had not sold the land: He  
never told me to whom he  
had sold his land.

Daniel Blossner

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this July 17th, 1882, my term expires  
Feby 26, 1885. Witness my hand & Notarial  
seal.

James R. Bell,  
Notary Public

State of Missouri }  
County of Christian } ss

I, James R. Bell, a Notary  
Public for and within the County of Christian  
and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that  
the foregoing depositions were duly taken  
reduced to writing and signed by the  
witnesses respectively before me (with the  
exception of John Lawton who was duly sworn  
and testified as in the foregoing deposition but  
left my office before signing the same) at the  
place and time therein mentioned, pursuant  
to annexed notice and commission



Albert Lawson  
w<sup>itness</sup> Depts for Deft

John Lawson

Received Sealed and in  
good Condition - and  
Filed July 26<sup>th</sup> 1882.

J. A. Hyatt  
Clerk

In testimony whereof I have hereunto  
affixed my hand and Notarial  
seal at my office in Ozark,  
Mo. this July 14<sup>th</sup>, A.D. 1882.  
My term expires Feb'y 26, 1885.  
Jas. R. Bell  
Notary Public



Mr Elbert Lawson or A. L. Pridemore  
Attorney for the said Elbert Lawson.

You will please take notice  
That on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 1882, at the  
dwelling house of Ira Lawson in the  
County of Lamy in the State of Missouri  
I will proceed to take the depositions of  
Ira Lawson Arthur Rogers Caloway  
Rogers and others, which depositions  
are intended to be read as evidence in  
behalf of the defendant in a suit in  
Chancery now pending in the Circuit  
Court of Lee County Virginia in  
which you are plaintiff and I am  
defendant, and should said depo-  
sitions not be completed on that  
day the taking thereof will be con-  
tinued from day to day from time  
to time and from place to place  
until they are completed. You can  
attend and cross examine if you  
desire to do so.

Yours &c.  
John Lawson



~~Robert~~ Lawson

Notice to  
ads. ~~3~~ Take depo.

Robert Lawson

Virginia Lu County Court  
This day C. T. Duncanson  
personally appeared  
before me John A. G. Hyatt  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
of Lu County Va and  
made oath that he deliver  
ed a true copy of this  
Notice to A. L. Priddy  
att'y of Robert Lawson  
the said Robert Lawson  
not being a resident  
of the State of Virginia  
Given under my hand  
This 20<sup>th</sup> day of June 1882

J. A. Hyatt Clerk



State of Missouri To  
Arthur Rogers Era Lawson  
J. Johnson Carter Lawson  
Mellie Lawson J. G. H. H.  
Myram Lawson Samuel Edwards

you are hereby commanded to be and  
appear personally before me J. Stout  
one of the justices of the peace  
within and for Sweet Township in the  
county of Taney on the 31<sup>st</sup> day  
July 1882 at the hour of ten  
of the clock in the forenoon  
of that day at the residence of  
Era Lawson in Beaver Township  
to give your depositions in the trial  
of a cause wherein Elbert Lawson  
is plaintiff and John Lawson  
is defendant on the part of the  
defendant and here fail not  
at your peril Witness my hand this  
31<sup>st</sup> July 1882 J. Stout J. P.

at the risk and the request  
of the defendant & hereby debatable  
William Madden to serve the within  
Subpoena

J. Stout J. P.



Executed the within Subpoena  
by reading the same to and in  
the presence of the within named  
Arthur Ragob, Ira Lawson and  
L. C. Johnson Carter Lawson and  
Miller Lanson. Jacob Hopps and  
Hyrton Lanson Samuel Eldards.  
William Mayden  
Deby Cons.

Constable fees  
Each return 25<sup>cts</sup>  
Doll \$2 00  
J P fees 35



Depositions of witnesses produced and  
sworn and examined, on the 31st  
day of July 1882 between the hours  
of eight o'clock in the forenoon &  
Six o'clock in the afternoon of that  
day at the residence of Lawson in  
Beaver Township Dancy County  
Missouri before me J. J. Stout a  
justice of the Peace Arthur Rogers  
of legal age being duly sworn  
Questioned Mr Rogers State what  
you know about the land trade  
of Mr Elbert Lawson and John Lawson.  
ans all I know is what Elbert told me  
he said that he Elbert Lawson  
had sold John Lawson his land  
and had received a horse & wagon  
in payment on the land, and if  
John ever got possession of the land  
the John Lawson was to pay him  
Elbert Lawson 5 or 6 Dollars more  
and if he never got possession of the  
land he was never to come back  
on him for the worth of the  
horse and wagon.

Ques do you owe Mr Elbert Lawson  
anything

Ans I do not consider that I do.

Ques did John Lawson ever come to you  
and ask you for a debt that was  
coming from you to Elbert Lawson  
ans he never did.

Ques after the deed was said to be sent  
back did you see the Post mark  
of Yelville Ark on the envelope  
ans I did

Subscribed & sworn  
to before this 31 day  
of July 1882  
J. J. Stout  
Justice of  
The Peace

Arthur Rogers  
a further certificate that the above  
was reduced to writing in my  
presence William Rogers  
of that day J. J. Stout, J. P.



Elbert Lawson

John V<sup>3</sup> Lawson Mrs Milley Law-  
son of lawful age being produced  
sworn and examined on the part of the  
defendant. John Lawson deposeth and  
says:

Question State your full name?

Ans Milley Lawson.

Question Where do you live?

Ans. In Lanny County Missouri.

Question What is your Occupation?

Ans. I am a house keeper.

Question State what you know about the land trade  
between Elbert Lawson and John Lawson?

Ans, Elbert Lawson told me he sold John  
Lawson his land and received a wagon  
and horse, He also stated he went to  
Pellville to make the deed.

Question Where did this conversation take place?

Ans In the South part of Lanny County near  
the Arkansas line.

Question When did this conversation occur?

Ans On or about September 1880.

Subscribed and sworn to before  
me this 31 day of  
July 1882  
W. J. Stout  
Justice of the Peace

I further certify that the within  
deposition was taken & reduced to writing  
in my presence at the residence of Era  
Lawson in Beaver Township in Lanny County  
Missouri between the hours of 8 o'clock in  
the forenoon & six o'clock in the afternoon  
of that day. W. J. Stout Justice of the Peace.



Albert Lawson  
John Lawson

George H. Morgan  
of lawful age being produced. Sworn  
and examined on the part of the defendant  
John Lawson deposite, and says

Question What is your name?

Ans. Geo. H. Morgan.

Question Where do you live?

Ans. I live in Dany county Missouri,

Question What is your Occupation?

Ans. I am a Farmer,

Question State what you know about the land trade  
between Albert Lawson and John Lawson.

Ans. Albert Lawson told me he sold John La-  
wson his land and received a horse  
and wagon on the land.

Question When did this conversation occur?

Ans. in Dany county Missouri.

Question About what time as near as you can  
remember?

Ans. soon after he returned from Arkansas  
some time in the fall of 1880.

Subscribed and sworn to before  
this 31<sup>st</sup> day of  
July 1882 at St. Louis  
Justice of the Peace

George H. Morgan  
witness

I further certify that the within  
deposition was taken and reduced to  
writing in my presents and reduced  
to writing, at the residence of Geo  
Lawson in Beaver Township in Dany  
County Missouri, between the  
hours of 8 o'clock in the fore noon



and six o'clock in the after  
noon. <sup>of that day</sup>  
H. J. Stout Justice  
of the Peace



Albert Larson

John Larson Jobb Hobbs of  
lawful age, being produced sworn  
and examined, on the part of the de-  
pendant John Larson, deposes and  
says,

Question What is your full name?

Ans. Jobb Hobbs.

Question Where do you live?

Ans. I live in Taney county Missouri.

Question What is your occupation?

Ans. I am a farmer.

Question State what you know about a land  
trade between Albert Larson and John  
Larson. This conversation occurred in the fall of 1880.

Ans. Albert Larson told me he received  
a horse in payment for the land.

Question Did Albert Larson tell you he went to  
Gallville to acknowledge the deed.

Ans. He said he went there for that purpose.

Subscribed and sworn,

To before me this  
31<sup>st</sup> day July 1882

J. J. Stout Justice of  
the Peace

Jobb Hobbs

& further certify that the within deposition  
was taken and reduced to writing in my  
presence at the residence of Ora Larson  
in Beaver Township Taney County  
Missouri, between the hours of 8 o'clock  
in the forenoon and six o'clock in  
the after noon of that day.

J. J. Stout  
Justice of the Peace



Albert Lawson

vs

John. Lawson (Hiram Lawson of  
lawful age being produced. Given  
and examined, on the part of the depen-  
dent John Lawson, deposes and says.

Question What is your full name?

Ans. Hiram Lawson.

Question Where do you live?

Ans. I live in Christian county Missouri?

Question What is your occupation?

Ans. Plowing corn. farming &c.

Question State what you know about the land  
trade between Albert Lawson and John  
Lawson.

Ans. I know nothing only what I have heard  
John and Albert say, and others.

Question State what you heard Albert Lawson  
say?

Ans I heard Albert say he never sold  
John the land.

Question What conversation passed between you Mr.  
Fonga and Albert Lawson in regard to  
the trade.

Ans. Mr Fonga went to Albert Lawson  
and myself when we all got together  
I asked Albert if he had sold John  
his land he said he had not. We  
or I one asked Albert (I have forgotten  
which) if he ever sold his land to  
John Lawson and he said he did not - I  
remarked that is what you have  
always told me. Fonga said boys  
you have got a good case.

Question Where did this conversation take place?

Ans in Christian county Missouri about four



ails from O'Fallon - some time in July  
1882.

Question Are you a relative of Albert Lawson?  
Ans. I am. Albert Lawson is my  
brother.

Question. Have you any pecuniary interest in  
the land.

Ans. I have not.

Question. Has he promised you any part of the  
land?

Ans. He has not - He promised to pay me  
for my trouble in furnishing him  
money to go to Yellville to take dep-  
ositions and for going to see the  
clerk.

Question How much money did you furnish  
him?

Ans. I let him have fifteen dollars at  
one time and twenty dollars at another  
time.

Question. Did Albert Lawson at any time tell  
you that he would give you part of  
the land if you and him gained  
it?

Ans. He never promised me any of the land  
and only <sup>part of the money</sup> till since the suit has been commenced  
and only then after the expenses are  
paid. Then would give me half of that  
should - Satisfy me. I don't remember  
that I told him I would or would  
not take it.

Herbert Lawson  
Subscribed and  
Sworn to before

me J. Stout this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 1882

J. J. Stout Justice of the Peace

A further certifies the foregoing deposition was taken &  
reduced to writing in my presence at the residence of  
Lawson at Beard Township Taney county Missouri  
between the hours of 8 o'clock in the forenoon and six in the  
evening of the 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 1882  
J. J. Stout Justice of the Peace.



Albert Lawson

John. Lawson. Ira Lawson of  
lawful age being produced sworn  
and examined on the part of the def-  
endant John Lawson deposes and says  
Question. What is your name?

Ans. Ira Lawson.

Question. Where do you live?

Ans. I live in Lamy county Missouri.

Question. What is your Occupation?

Ans. I am a farmer.

Question. State what Albert Lawson asked you  
for his land in property.

Ans. Albert Lawson named to me and said  
that he wanted to take his land to  
a mare and two mule colts. one  
suckling mule colt. the other about  
fifteen months old. He said that  
he would give me his land back  
you can for the mare and two mule  
colts. Says I Albert that is not  
enough for your land. He says  
I will take that for it. That give  
(meaning his wife) had a share  
in it, that he never expected to  
go back any more. And we  
traded. I then wrote to the Surveyor  
back there, that run this land  
out. Albert's land for the courses  
of his land. The Surveyor sent me  
the courses, when the courses come  
I told Albert that, I was not going  
to take his land. That it was not  
enough for it. And if he was  
do minded to fool it away. That he



Might fool it away to somebody else that his father had worked and managed. And that I would be ashamed if I was him to take any such a price for it. And he fell out with me because I would not take it.

Question Did you ever hear any conversation between Elbert and John Lawson in regard to the land

~~the~~ Ans I have heard them talk about the trade but paid little attention to the talk. I was in big Creek Township in this county in company with Elbert Lawson & John Lawson and heard Elbert say to John Lawson getting tired ~~to~~ doing without that team.

Question What did you think was meant by that conversation?

Ans I thought he was getting the team in payment for the land. As he had no other means of paying for the team that I know of. The reason I thought so John Lawson had told me he was going to make the trade with him for his land. I told John Lawson if I were him I would not do it. Though he had as well have the land as any body for he would fool it away to somebody.

Question Did you hear Elbert Lawson say anything <sup>about</sup> a debt between him and Arthur Rogers.

Ans Elbert said Arthur was owing him some for some corn bed clothing cow &c. I think he put the amount at thirty dollars.



Lawson Did you hear Albert Lawson anything about  
renting his land to Arthur Rogers.

Ans. He said Arthur was either to sell the  
rent and send him the money or keep  
the rent and send him the money for  
it at whatever corn was selling  
at. I said to him you want get a  
dollar, it will take the rent of that  
place to keep up (Jim) meaning his  
wife. <sup>This conversation happened on or about the fall of 1878</sup>

Question Did you hear Albert Lawson say  
anything about letting John Lawson  
have a debt on Arthur Rogers for  
rents in payment for a horse and  
wagon.

Ans. I did not. I do Lawson  
Subscribed and  
Sworn to before me  
this 31 day of July  
1882 J. J. Stout  
Justice of the Peace  
I further certify that the within  
deposition was taken and reduced  
to writing in my presence at the  
residence of Eda Lawson in Beaver  
Township, Barry County Missouri  
between the hours of 8 o'clock in  
the forenoon and six o'clock in  
the afternoon of that day.  
J. J. Stout  
Justice of the Peace.



State of Missouri } ss  
County of Taney } Albert Lanson

} John Lanson  
& J. Stout one of the justices of  
the Court within and for the Township of  
Swan in the County of Taney and  
State aforesaid. hereby certify that the  
above and within are the true depositions  
of the within named witnesses, as they  
was taken before me with all papers &  
process, and I further certify that  
said depositions was taken on 31 day of  
July A.D. 1882 at the residence of  
Eva Lanson in Beaver Branch in  
Taney County Missouri on the Part  
of John Lanson, Defendant

J. Stout Justice of the  
Peace

Fee bill in the above entitled cause

for fees Subpoena 1	35
Depositions 2, 300 words 15 cts each 100 words & figures	\$3 45
Swearing each witness 5 cts 8 witnesses	40
Transcription & certificate	35
	<u>\$4 55</u>

Witness fees

for fees	Arthur Rogers	50 cts
Mrs. Mayden	J. E. Johnson	50 cts
Sum 8 witnesses	Barter Lanson	50 cts
25 cts each	Eva Lanson	50 cts
\$2 00	Millie Lanson	50 cts
	Samuel Eldards	50 cts
	Jacob Hoob	50 cts

Hyram Lanson, Paid by John Lanson, 50 cts  
I hereby certify this to be a true fee  
bill of J. Stout J.P.



Albert Lawson.

vs. }  
John Lawson James G. Johnson of  
lawful age being produced, sworn and  
examined, on the part of the Defendant  
John Lawson, deposes and says.

Question State your full name?

Answer James G. Johnson

Question Where do you live?

Ans. I live in Lamy County Missouri.

Question What is your Occupation?

Ans. I am a Physician.

Question State what you know about a certain  
land trade between Albert Lawson and  
John Lawson.

Ans. By request of John Lawson I wrote a deed  
with the covenants of a general warranty for  
Albert Lawson to convey to John Lawson  
certain lands that are situate in the State  
of Virginia. John Lawson told me at the  
time that he was going to get Albert  
Lawson to go with him to Yellville Ark-  
ansas and there before the county clerk  
acknowledge the conveyance. Some time  
afterward I learned that there was a wrong  
in the deed. Albert Lawson returned to Ira  
Lawson and I met him near the residence  
of Ira Lawson and asked him about the  
deed. What was wrong with it. He answered  
the deed was no count. I told him I knew  
the deed was written all right for I wrote  
it myself. He answered his name was not  
signed to the deed. I asked him how it  
happened his name was not signed to the deed.



He said he received the clerk forgot it. but  
he didn't know till afterwards but what his  
name was too the deed. He said he went to  
Gallville for the purpose of signing the deed  
and that John Lawson paid him a horse  
and wagon on the land but that John  
Lawson had cheated him and was the  
meanest man in Virginia and that he  
did not intend to let him have the  
land. This conversation all occurred about the fall of 1880

Subscribed and  
sworn to before  
me this 31 day of  
July 1882

J. J. Stout  
Justice of the Peace  
I further certify that the within  
deposition was taken and reduced  
to writing in my presence at the  
residence of Ira Lawson in Beaver  
Township, Tazewell County, Missouri  
between the hours of 8 o'clock in  
the forenoon and six o'clock  
in the afternoon of that day  
J. J. Stout  
Justice of the Peace



State of Missouri  
 County of Dancy } Thomas A.  
 Lupton Clerk of the County Court  
 of Dancy County and State of  
 Missouri do hereby certify that  
 T. J. Stout is an <sup>in and for the County State of Missouri</sup> ~~in and for the County State of Missouri~~ Justice  
 of the Peace, duly appointed and  
 qualified and by the laws  
 of the State of Missouri is author-  
 ized to take depositions and I  
 further certify that his signature  
 thereto is genuine

In testimony whereof I have  
 hereunto set my hand and offici-  
 al seal - This the 7<sup>th</sup> day of August  
 1882 A. Thomas A. Lupton  
 Clerk County Court

John Larsson  
 and 3 Depo. for deft

Elbert Larsson

Received sealed &  
 filed August 15<sup>th</sup> 1882.  
 J. A. Hyatt  
 Clerk

Bill of cost -  
 J. P. fees \$4.55 -  
 Constables " 2.00  
 Witnesses 4.00  
 Hyatt Clerk \$10.55 -



Know all men by these presents That I Elbert  
Lawson of the county of Marion in the State  
of Arkansas, have this day for and in  
consideration of the sum of five hundred  
dollars, <sup>to the said Elbert Lawson</sup> in hand paid by John Lawson  
of the county of Linn in the State of Miss-  
ouri. Granted, bargained and sold, and by  
these presents, do grant, bargain and sell  
unto the said John Lawson the following  
described tracts or parcels of land situate in  
the county of Lee in the State of Virginia  
that is to say, Beginning on a white oak  
on the south side of Newmans Ridge, thence  
S. 87° E. 23 poles to a birch and dogwood on  
said ridge. S 63° E. 50 poles to a white oak on  
the top of a hill N 56° E 44 poles to a stake on  
the top of said ridge. N 86° E 47 poles to a  
stake in a conditional line made by Ira Lawson  
and Obadiah Lawson thence with said line N 10°  
W. 125 poles to a white oak call'd Obadiah Law-  
sons corner on the south side of Newmans  
ridge S 45° W 92. poles to two poplar stumps  
near the branch. N 22° E 142 poles to two pop-  
lars corner of Arthur Rogers land N 85°  
W 106 poles to a conditional line made by Arthur  
Rogers and Ira Lawson N 72° W 63 poles to a  
poplar and Blackoak corner to Arthur Rogers  
N 23° W 50 poles to a dogwood near the top  
of the ridge S 61° W 80 poles to a hickory and



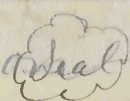
poplar S 17, E, 60 poles to a poplar and chestnut  
S 38, W 82 poles to a poplar and chestnut S 33 E,  
100 poles to a poplar on the side of a ridge  
thence N 64 E 82 poles to Ira Lawsons fence on  
a spur S 20, E, 13 poles to a white oak the  
Beginning.

Beginning on a Spur on the  
west side of a branch N 37<sup>12</sup> W 40 poles to a  
burch at the foot of a spur N 46 W 31 poles  
crossing a branch to a hickory N 58, E, 67  
poles to a black gum and dogwood on a  
rocky point N 3 W, 28 poles to a white oak  
and small hickory near the top of a ridge  
N 48, E, 84 poles to a chestnut oak on the side  
of a ridge N 3<sup>E</sup>, 42 poles to a buckeye on  
the E side of a branch corner to a 38 acre  
survey made by J. Ferguson thence with a  
line thereof S 36, E 26 poles to a red oak S  
62, E, 32 poles to two dogwoods and burches  
S 30, E, 34, poles to 2 burches N 58, E, 8 poles to  
a burch and buckeye S 48, E 10 poles to a  
burch N 68, E, 12 poles to a leaning and double  
burch. S 45 E 12 poles to an ash and two  
dogwoods on the top of a ridge thence  
along the top of said ridge with its  
several meanderings S 40, W 160 poles to  
two post oaks on the top of said  
ridge thence due west 38 poles to the  
beginning. To have and to hold



the premises hereby conveyed, with all the rights privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, or in anywise appertaining unto the said John Lawson his heirs and assigns forever. & the said Elbert Lawson hereby ~~covenanting to and with the said John~~ Lawson his heirs and assigns for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators to warrant and defend the title to the premises hereby conveyed against the claim of every person whatsoever.

In witness whereof I have <sup>hereto</sup> subscribed my name and affixed my seal this 10 day of Dec. 1874.

Elbert Lawson 

State of Arkansas }  
County of Marion }

Be it remembered that Elbert Lawson who is personally known to the undersigned clerk of the County Court within and for said County of Marion and State of Arkansas to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing deed, as a party thereto, this day appeared before me, and acknowledged that he executed and delivered the same, as his voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes <sup>and consideration</sup> therein contained, and set forth



Given under my hand with seal annexed  
this 10<sup>th</sup> day of Dec 1878.

K. F. Cantrell clerk

Virginia Lee County Court Clerk's office Sept 30<sup>th</sup> 1881.

The foregoing deed bearing date Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> 1878  
between Albert Lawson of Marion County Arkansas  
of the first part, and John Lawson of Long County  
Missouri of the second part is admitted to record  
upon the certificate of K. F. Cantrell Clerk of the  
Circuit Court of of Marion County Arkansas.  
Wm. R. Gibson clk

John Lawson  
vs  
Albert Lawson

Deed

Recorded in Deed  
Book No 198 p. 498

J. R. Gibson clk

4

6 125  
11 100  
12 25

Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> 1881  
Received payment  
J. R. Gibson



12 now all men by these presents That  
I Elbert Lawson of the county of Marion  
in the State of Arkansas, have this day for  
And in consideration of the sum of five hundred  
dollars to the said Elbert Lawson in hand  
paid by John Lawson of the county of Taney  
in the State of Missouri granted bargain  
and sold And by these presents, do grant bargain  
And sell unto the said John Lawson the following  
described Tracts or parcels of land Situate  
in the county of Lee in the State of Virginia  
that is to say, Beginning on a white oak on the  
South Side of Newmans ridge Thence S. 29, E.  
23 poles to a bunch And dogwood on said ridge  
S. 63, E. 50. poles to a white oak on the Top of a hill  
N. 56, E. 44 poles to a stake on the Top of said ridge  
N. 86 1/2 E. 47. poles to a stake in a conditional line  
made by Ira Lawson And Obediah Lawson Thence  
with said line N. 10 1/2 W. 125 poles to a white oak  
called Obediah Lawsons corner on the South  
Side of Newmans ridge S. 45, W. 92 poles to two  
poplar stumps near a branch N. 22, E. 142 poles  
to two poplars corner of Arthur Rogers' land  
N. 85, W. 46. poles to conditional line made by Arthur  
Rogers And Ira Lawson N. 72, W. 63 poles to a  
poplar And black oak corner to Arthur Rogers  
N. 23, W. 50 poles to a dogwood near the Top of the  
ridge S. 61, W. 80. to a hickory And poplar S. 17, E. 60




holes to a poplar and chestnut S. 38, W. 82 holes to  
a poplar and chestnut S. 33, E. 100. holes to a poplar  
on the side of a ridge thence N. 64, E. 82 holes to  
John Sawsons fence on a spur. S. 20, E. 13 holes to a  
white oak The Beginning

Beginning on a Lynn on the west side of a branch  
N. 37 1/2 W. 40 holes to a burch at the foot of a spur  
S. 46, W. 31 holes crossing a branch to a hickory  
N. 58, E. 67 holes to a black gum and dogwood  
on a rocky point N. 3, W. 28 holes to a white oak and  
small hickey near the top of a ridge N. 48, E. 84  
holes to a chestnut oak on the side of a ridge  
N. 3, E. 42 holes to a buckey on the east side of  
a branch corner to a 38 acre survey made by  
J. Ferguson thence with a line thereof S. 36, E.  
26 holes to a red oak S. 62, E. 32 holes to two  
dogwoods and burchus S. 30, E. 34 holes to 2 burchus  
N. 58, E. 8, holes to a burch and buckey S. 48, E. 10  
holes to a burch N. 68, E. 12 holes to a leaning and  
soluble S. 45, E. 12 holes to an ash and two dogwoods  
on the top of a ridge thence along the top of said  
ridge with its several meanderings S. 40, W. 160  
holes to two post-oaks on the top of said ridge  
thence due west 38 holes to The Beginning

To have and to hold the premises hereby conveyed  
with all the rights privileges and appurtenances  
thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining  
unto the said John Sawson his heirs and

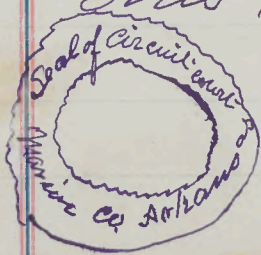


assigns forever I the said Elbert Lawson  
hereby **covenanting** to and with the said John  
Lawson his heirs and assigns for himself  
his heirs executors and administrators to  
warrant and defend the title to the premises  
hereby conveyed against the claim of any  
person whatsoever in witness whereof I  
have hereto subscribed my name and affixed  
my Seal This 10<sup>th</sup> day of Dec. 1878  
Elbert Lawson 

State of Arkansas }  
County of Marion }

Be it remembered that  
Elbert Lawson who is personally known to  
the undersigned clerk of the county court  
within and for said county of Marion and  
State of Arkansas to be the person whose  
name is subscribed to the foregoing deed  
as a party thereto This day appeared before  
me and acknowledged that he executed and  
delivered the same as his voluntary act  
and deed for the uses and purposes and  
consideration therein contained and set forth  
Given under my hand with Seal annexed  
This 10<sup>th</sup> day of Dec. 1878

L. F. Comstock clerk





Virginia Lee county courts clerk's office Sep-  
The 30<sup>th</sup> 1881

The foregoing deed bearing date Dec-  
30<sup>th</sup> 1878 between Elbert Dawson of Marion  
county Arkansas of the first part and  
John Dawson of Lorry County Missouri  
of the second part is admitted to record  
upon the certificate of K. H. Cantrell  
clerk of the circuit court of Marion  
county Arkansas.

Teste John M. Gibson, clerk  
Acopy

Teste John B. Gibson clerk  
of Lee county Court.

John Dawson  
Dawson { Copies of Deed  
Elbert Dawson

Recorded in Deed

Vol 19<sup>th</sup> P. 473.

John R. Gibson clerk

"A"

See for this copy 758



Elbert Lawson      Plff  
                 again      } In chancery  
John Lawson      deft      } In its Circuit  
Court of Lee County Virginia -  
The object of this suit is to obtain a  
decree from the Circuit Court of Lee  
County Virginia in which the cause is  
now pending, setting aside a deed  
void and holding for naught a deed  
purporting to be executed by the plff  
to the defendant for the land em-  
braced in said <sup>deed</sup> deed, being the land  
which descended from the plffs  
father Russell Lawson deceased and  
is situated on the waters of the North  
Fork of Clinch river, in Lee County  
Va, and whereon the said plff lived  
and is now in the hands of the  
sheriff of this County as receiver  
and which said proceeding affects  
only the plff and defendant.

Virginia Lee County court clerk's office the 27 day of March 1882  
The foregoing Lib Pendens was this day filed in this  
office and admitted to record.

Leate John R. Gibson clerk



Elbert Lawson

vs. L. Pennington

John Lawson

Recorded On Deed  
Book No 13 Page 578.

John R. Gibson & Co.

Fee for recording 50¢



This deed made this July 29<sup>th</sup> 1882  
between John M. Tate attorney in  
fact, of Albert Lawson, of the state of  
Missouri of the first part and A. L.  
Pridemore of the second part witnessed  
that whereas the said John M. Tate  
attorney in fact as aforesaid, has  
heretofore employed pursuant to his  
powers the said A. L. Pridemore, to  
institute a suit in chancery for the  
said Albert Lawson against John  
Lawson, for the purpose of setting  
aside a deed alleged to be a forgery  
& fraudulent purporting to be executed  
by said Albert to said John Lawson  
for certain lands owned by said  
Albert in the County of Lee, <sup>and state of Va</sup> and the  
said attorney in fact not having  
any other means to compensate the  
said Pridemore for his said services,  
hereby in consideration of his having  
instituted said suit, and further that he  
presents the same to final determi-  
nation in the Circuit Court of Lee  
County doeth, grant bargain sell  
and convey unto said Pridemore  
so much of the lands situated in  
Lee County as belongs to the said



Elbert Law, as will pay the said  
Pendmore the sum of two hundred  
dollar ~~to be~~ to be laid off to him  
on the east end of said tract, and  
should the attorney in fact and the  
said Pendmore disagree as to the  
quantity then the same is to be laid  
off by commissioners to be mutually  
agreed on between them. The said  
attorney in fact covenants that he  
will warrant specially the lands  
so sold or convey as aforesaid as  
fully & specifically as his said  
power will warrant. For more  
specific reference to the meter and  
bounds of said lands reference  
is here had to the deeds & title of the  
said Elbert Lawson now of record  
in the clerk's office of Lee County  
Va. And also to the pretended deed  
herin first alluded to which is  
also of record in the Clerk's office  
of the County Court of Lee County.  
Witness the following signature &  
seals this day & year first  
above written.

Jno. M. Tate

(Seal)



State of Virginia - County of Lee, to wit:

I, John B. West, a Notary Public  
for the county aforesaid, in the state  
of Virginia, do certify that John M.  
Gates (Attorney in fact, of Elbert  
Lawson of the state of Missouri) whose  
name is signed to the writing above,  
bearing date on the 29th day of July  
1882, has acknowledged the same be-  
fore me in my county aforesaid.  
Given under my hand, this, 29th,  
day of July 1882.

John B. West, N. P.



N.P. 50

A. L. Pridmore  
From } Recd  
Jas. M. Tate, Atty.  
in fact &c.

Filed July 31<sup>st</sup> 1882  
J. A. Hyatt  
Clerk

leo l. 75  
" .50  
1.25-

Castable .50  
.50  
1.00  
.50  
1.50

N.P.'s Fee: 50 cts.  
charged to said Tate.



Know all men by these presents that we Elbert Lawson,  
John M. Tate & Sam. Poter are held and firmly bound  
unto the Commonwealth of Virginia in the just and full  
sum of Five hundred dollars, for the payment thereof well  
and truly to be made to the said Commonwealth, we bind  
ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators jointly and  
severally, firmly by these presents. And we hereby waive  
the benefit of our homestead exemptions as to this bond.  
Witness our hands and seals, this 30th day of March 1882.  
The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas  
on the       day of March 1882, the above bound Elbert  
Lawson obtained from the Circuit Court of Lee County Virginia  
an injunction enjoining and restraining John Lawson  
from selling, renting, leasing or occupying the lands in  
the bill of injunction mentioned, until the future order  
of the Court, upon condition that he the said Elbert Lawson  
should execute before the Clerk of said Court a bond in  
the penalty of \$500<sup>00</sup> conditioned to faithfully abide by and  
duly perform the future orders of the said Court &c,  
Now if the above bound Elbert Lawson shall faithfully  
abide by and duly perform the future orders of the said Court  
and pay to the defendant John Lawson any costs or damages  
that may be decreed to him, or that he may sustain by  
reason of said injunction, should the same hereafter be  
dissolved, Then the above obligation to be void, otherwise  
to remain in full force and virtue.

Elbert Lawson By Atty in fact

John M. Tate

Sam. Poter



Elbert Lawson  
vs <sup>3</sup>/<sub>3</sub> Bond  
John Lawson

---

Filed April 1<sup>st</sup> 1882  
J. A. Hyatt  
Elbert



Ellert Lawson per Jno. M. Tate, Atty in fact Plff

vs.

John Lawson - - - - - Deft

In  
Chy.

June 30th 9 hours @ 75 cts = \$6.75 -

July 1st " " @ 75 cts = \$6.75 -

" 18th " " @ 75 cts = \$6.75 none

" 29th " " @ 75 cts = \$6.75 none

Aug 7th " " @ 75 cts = \$6.75 (3 1/2 pages)

" 2nd 1 hour .75 none

Notary Public Total \$34.50

Constable - - - - - .50

### Witnesses

Hiram More one day 50 cts

Jas. M. More " " "

Sterling S. Manef " " "

Isaac Lawson " " "

Abraham Johnson " " "

Austin Bledsoe " " "

James H. Belf " " "

Wm. Brotherton " " "

Jesse Asuburn " " "

Total 4.50



Elbert Lawson for John  
Mr. Tate atty in fact  
vs<sup>3</sup> Bill of costs  
John Lawson



The Commonwealth of Virginia,

To the Sheriff of Lee County - - - Greeting :

We Command you to Summon

*John Lawson*

To appear at the Clerk's office of the Circuit Court of Lee, at the Court-House, on the first Monday in

*May* next, being rule day to answer a bill in Chancery, exhibited in our said Court against  
*him* by *Albert Lawson*

And have then there this writ. Witness JOHN A. G. HYATT Clerk of our said court at the Court-House  
this *29<sup>th</sup>* day of *March* 188*2*; in the *106* year of the Commonwealth.

*J. A. G. Hyatt* CLERK.



Albert Lawson  
vs  
John Lawson

Plff }  
Def } In Chancery

On the motion of the plff in this cause in open Court, in the reading of the bill & argument of Counsel & due consideration thereof, an injunction is awarded enjoining and restraining John Lawson from selling, renting, leasing or occupying the lands in the bill mentioned until the future order of this Court, Teste J. A. Spatt Clerk

Albert Lawson  
vs  
John Lawson

May Rules 1882

Executed by  
Deputy of the  
Copy of the  
William  
John. Lawson  
March the 30<sup>th</sup>  
1882  
D. D. for J. D. L. C.



# The Commonwealth of Virginia,

To the Sheriff of Lee County - - - Greeting:

We Command you to Summon

*John Lawson*

To appear at the Clerk's office of the Circuit Court of Lee, at the Court-House, on the first Monday in

*May*

next, being rule day to answer a bill in Chancery, exhibited in our said Court against

*him*

by

*Elbert Lawson*

And have then there this writ. Witness JOHN A. G. HYATT Clerk of our said court at the Court-House

this *31<sup>st</sup>* day of *March* 188*2*; in the *106* year of the Commonwealth.

*J. A. G. Hyatt* CLERK.



Albert Lawson vs John Lawson is they  
on the motion of the plaintiff in this cause in  
open Court and the reading of the bill and argument  
of Counsel & due consideration thereof an injunction  
is awarded, enjoining and restraining John  
Lawson from selling, renting leasing or  
occupying the lands in the bill mentioned  
until a future order of this Court.

Teste J. A. Hyatt Clerk

For Lawson



The Commonwealth of Virginia,

To the Sheriff of Lee County - - - Greeting :

We Command you to Summon

*John Lawson*

To appear at the Clerk's office of the Circuit Court of Lee, at the Court-House, on the first Monday in

*May*

next, being rule d y to answer a bill in Chancery, exhibited in our said Court against

*him*

by

*Albert Lawson*

And have then there this writ. Witness JOHN A. G. HYATT Clerk of our said Court at the Court-House

this *31<sup>st</sup>* day of *March* 1882; in the *106* year of the Commonwealth.

*J. A. G. Hyatt* CLERK.



Albert Lawson vs John Lawson Debt In Chancery

On the motion of the plaintiff in this cause in open Court and the reading of the bill and agreement of Counsel & due consideration thereof an injunction is awarded injoining and restraining John Lawson from selling, renting, leasing or occupying the lands in the bill mentioned until a future order of this Court.

Westo J. A. Hyatt Clerk

Albert Lawson  
vs John Lawson

May Rules 1882

Executed by  
delivering a copy  
of the within to  
John Lawson on  
this 31st day of March  
1882 Thomas J. Ely  
for Thomas J. Ely  
D. L. C.